

Message Text

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73

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

RSR-01 /083 W

----- 002255

R 221940 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8391

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, GY

SUBJECT: 16 TH PNC ANNUAL CONFERENCE

REF: (A) GEORGETOWN 622

(B) GEORGETOWN 640

SUMMARY: PNC DEMONSTRATED DURING 16 TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE ITS DRIVE, PRIDE IN ITS ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE, AND CONFIDENCE IN ITS ABILITY TO WIN FORTHCOMING NATIONAL ELECTION. END SUMMARY.

1. DELEGATES TO 16 TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE (MAY 2-10) OF GOVERNING PEOPLES NATIONAL CONGRESS (PNC) DEPARTED IN EXUBERANT, SELF- CONFIDENT MOOD AFTER A WEEK OF POLITICAL SPEECHES, WORKSHOPS, AND RECITATIONS OF PATY ACCOMPLISHMENTS. PRIME MINISTER BURNHAM, IN HIS CLOSING ADDRESS, EMPHASIZED NEED FOR HARD WORK AND DEDICATION IF 1973 IS TO BE " YEAR OF POLITICAL BREAK- THROUGH". DEMANDING MAXIMUM EFFORT GAIN 2/3 MAJORITY HE SO BADLY WANTS, HE SAID HE HAD DECIDED ON ELECTION DATE BUT WOULD NOT DIVULGE IT " UNTIL TIME RIPE", SAYING " NO GENERAL

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GOING INTO BATTLE WANTS TO TELEGRAPH TO OTHER SIDE WHEN, WHERE, AND HOW HE WILL STRIKE". BURNHAM ALSO LAMBASTED THOSE WHO BELIEVE THAT PATY MEMBERSHIP NOT ONLY QUALIFIES THEM FOR JOBS BUT ENTITLES THEM TO " LAZE AND PLAY THE FOOL" ON THE JOB. HE SAID GUYANA COULD NOT BRUN EFFICIENTLY AND EFFECTIVELY IF THEY EXPECTED JOBS WHICH CALLED FOR EXPERTISE AND QUALIFICATIONS MERELY BECAUSE THEY WERE PARTY MEMBERS.

2. MAJOR ISSUES (REF A) ADDRESSED, AS PLANNED, DURING CONFERENCE BY VARIOUS PARTY SPOKESMEN. EMPHASIS THROUGHOUT WAS ON ACHIEVEMENTS PNC DURING ITS YEARS IN POWER AS OPPOSED TO FAILURES CHEDDIE JAGAN' S OPPOSITION PEOPLES PROGRESSIVE PARTY (PPP) WHEN IT WAS GOVERNING PARTY. GREATEST STRESS PLACED ON NEED FOR SELF- DENIAL AND AUSTERITY IF DEVELOPMENT GOALS OF FEEDING, HOUSING AND CLOTHING NATION BY 1976 ARE TO BE REACHED. PLANS FOR LAND REFORM AND CONTINUING INFRA- STRUCTURE ADDITIONS WERE DISCUSSED. FOREIGN MINISTER RAMPHAL ENLARGED ON INTERNATIONAL " RECOGNITION AND RESPECT" GAINED BY GUYANA UNDER BURNHAM' S LEADERSHIP IN SEVEN YEARS SINCE INDEPENDENCE. INTERESTINGLY, INFORMATION MINISTER SHIRLEY FIELD- RIDLY TOOK AS HER THEME " DEMOCRACY IN ACTION", OBSERVING THAT PNC GOVT HAS CALLED ON THE PEOPLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EXERCISE OF GOV' T AND THEY HAD RESPONDED. SHE SAID EXISTING DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS HAD BEEN PRESERVED WHILE NATION BUILDING WAS BEING EFFECTED BY HE PEOPLE IN A SPIRIT OF SELF- RELIANCE AND CONFIDENCE. PARTY' S EFFORTS TOWARD UNITY AND RACIAL HARMONY WERE EMPHASIZED WHILE THE PPP WAS ATTACKED AS FOMENTER OF RACIAL HATRED. DEPUTY PM REID IN HIS ADDRESS ON " VIOLENCE AND RACIAL HATE" QUOTED EXTENSIVELY FROM PPP SPOKESMEN WHO IN PUBLIC SPEECHES ACCUSED THE PNC OF PRACTICING RACIALISM, SOUGHT TO WHIP UP RACIAL ANIMOSITY ON THE PART OF EAST INDIANS TOWARDS BLACKS, AND ADVOCATED VIOLENCE TO SECURE POLITICAL POWER. TO COUNTER THE OPPOSITION, REID URGED PARTY ORGANIZATION, INDIVIDUAL DISCIPLINE, PREPAREDNESS BY THE SECURITY FORCES, APPLICAION TO THE JOB, AND CONFIDENCE IN THE PARTY LEADERSHIP. REID' S OWN ADDRESS WAS ITSELF NOT A LITTLE RACIALIST IN TONE.

3. PNC LEADERSHIP RETURNED TO OFFICE UNCHANGED EXCEPT FOR ELECTION HOUSING AND RECONSTRUCTION MINISTER STEVE NARAIN AS CO- TREASURER TO FILL VACANCY CAUSED BY DEATH OF EUGENE COREEIA. PNC EXECUTIVE AS FOLLOWS:

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LEADER- FORBES BURNHAM
DEPUTY LEADER- PTOLEMY REID
CHAIRMAN- CAMMIE RAMSAROOP
1 ST VICE CHM- WINSLOW CARRINGTON
2 DN VICE CHM- JOHN JOAQUIN
GENERAL SECRETARY- HAMILTON GREEN
ASST. SEC. KENNETH PERCIVAL

TREASURER- HYACINTH GODETTE
CO- TREASURER- STEVE NARAIN
CONTRIBUTIONS TO PARTY FUNDS DURING COURSE OF CONFERENCE
PUBLICLY STATED TO TOTAL OVER G\$280,000, BUT ADDITIONAL AVAILABLE
FUNDS BELIEVED TO BE MUCH HIGHER.

4. COMMENT: NOTWITHSTANDING EXCESSIVE EUPHORIA GENERATED
BY CONFERENCE, IT IS EVIDENT THAT PNC VIBRANCY AND DRIVE, AS
CONTRASTED TO PPP SLUGGISHNESS AND INERTIA WILL GIVE IT TRE-
MENDOUS ADVANTAGE IN FORTHCOMING ELECTION. THERE ALSO IS SOME
EVIDENCE OF BAND- WAGON EFFECT WITH MUCH GREATER EAST INDIAN
PARTICIPATION THAN HERETOFOR. TURNOUT AS EXTRA- LONG CONFERENCE
LARGE, ESTIMATED NEVER TO HAVE DROPPED BELOW 1,000 EACH DAY,
AND FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS MADE IMPRESSIVE TOTAL. IN SUM,
PRIME MINISTER BURNHAM' S PARTY IS VERY MUCH ALIVE AND WELL AND
IF ITS VIGOR CAN BE CHanneled INTO EFFECTIVE ACTION, BURNHAM
AND HIS GOV' T WILL CERTAINLY CONTINUE IN POWER ON BASIS
ELECTORAL VICTORY, ALTHOUGH ACHIEVEMENT 2/3 MAJORITY, IN EMBASSY
VIEW, WILL REQUIRE CONSIDERABLE MANIPULATION.

5. COPIES OF PAPERS DELIVERED AT CONFERENCE BEING POUCHED. KING

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